

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 12 and 13 added.

In particular, claim 1 is amended to obviate informalities, and not for substantial reasons related to patentability. Claims 12 and 13 are added to recite additional subject matter disclosed in the specification. (See the specification at, for example, page 6, lines 14-33, and page 7, lines 22-28.) No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiners Dastouri and Kibler for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Luo, during the May 18, 2004 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to claims 1-11. Claim 1 is amended to obviate informalities, as the Examiner requested. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1-11 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,088,037 to Fukunaga et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Fukunaga discloses all elements recited in claims 1-11. Applicant respectfully submits that Fukunaga does not disclose or suggest an image-processing apparatus, wherein each of the image processing sections are capable of being set to one of a first operation mode allowing data communication with the control section, and a second operation mode allowing only reception from the control section, as recited in claims 1-11.

Fukunaga discloses a rendering processor 4 or 1004. See Fig. 14, and col. 6, lines 41-44. The rendering processor 1004 is decomposed into the same processor elements 1004-i, which perform respective functions. See col. 6, lines 48-55, and col. 14, lines 8-17.

Fukunaga specifically discloses that the processor element 1004-1, which is specified to control the paint-out operation and the cursor blinking, is uniquely selected as a master to output a synchronization signal. See col. 14, lines 8-10 and lines 41-45.

Applicant respectfully submits that Fukunaga discloses designating a specific processor element as the master to output the synchronization signal. No other processor element is designated as the master. Thus, Fukunaga does not disclose or suggest an image processing apparatus, wherein each of the image processing sections are capable of being set to one of a first operation mode allowing data communication with the control section, and a second operation mode allowing only reception from the control section, as recited in claims 1-11.

In addition, Fukunaga discloses that the processor elements 1004-i are the same. See col 14, lines 1-7. As discussed during the personal interview, the only difference between the "master" and "the other processor elements" is that the master outputs the synchronization signal. See col. 14, lines 41-45. Fukunaga does not disclose or suggest, explicitly, implicitly, or inherently, any other difference between "the master" and "the other processor elements" regarding data communication with a control section. Thus, Fukunaga does not disclose or suggest an image-processing apparatus, wherein each of the image processing sections are capable of being set to one of a first operation mode allowing data communication with a control section, and a second operation mode allowing only reception from the control section, as recited in claims 1-11.

For at least the above reasons, Fukunaga does not disclose or suggest each and every element recited in claims 1-11. Thus, Fukunaga does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1-11. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 13 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/sqb

Date: May 28, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
